



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory 40-13
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USNS Grasp, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two Sailors Return From F-16 Salvage

NORFOLK, Va. (Aug. 19, 2013) – Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) Two, embarked aboard the Navy's rescue and salvage ship USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51), will return to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek tomorrow, August 20 after completing salvage operations on a downed Air National Guard F-16 aircraft off the coast of Virginia.

The downed aircraft was one of two F-16 fighter jets from the 113th Wing D.C. Air National Guard that clipped wings mid-air during a routine training mission 35 miles southeast of Chincoteague, Va., Aug. 1. The other aircraft involved in the incident flew back to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland without further incident.

MDSU-2 is an expeditionary mobile unit homeported at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, Va., and has successfully conducted salvage operations in support of TWA Flight 800, Swiss Air Flight 111, the space shuttles Challenger and Columbia, the I-35W Mississippi River bridge collapse in Minnesota, the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor, and recovery of a downed military jet off the coast of Italy.

Grasp is crewed by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC), which operates approximately 110 noncombatant, U.S. Navy civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world, and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners.

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NOTE:

1) Media wishing to cover USNS Grasp and MDSU-2 divers' return to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek should contact U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs (757) 836-4421 no later than 7 p.m. August 19. Advance notification is required for access to the Little Creek.